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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/816,367	04/01/2004	David W. Farchmin	110003.00027.03AB049	2175
7590	05/02/2006			
Susan M. Donahue Rockwell Automation, Inc., 704-P 1201 South Second Street Milwaukee, WI 53204-2496				EXAMINER GANDHI, JAYPRAKASH N
				ART UNIT 2125 PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 05/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/816,367	FARCHMIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jayprakash N. Gandhi	2125	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-71 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 42-48 and 55-71 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-41 and 49-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 01 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>Multiple</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-41 and 49-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Beaulieu et al. (US 2005/0096776).

Beaulieu discloses all the claimed elements to perform a method for controlling and tracking a moving product (300), having a sensor (305) for tracking, a resource (315B). The product is connected to a computer system (330), which controls the product carrier monitoring system. It is inherent properties of Beaulieu to perform the claimed method of controlling and tracking a moving product during production or manufacturing.

FIG. 6 is an exemplary schematic diagram illustrating the relationship between components of a manufacturing facility and elements of the present invention. In FIG. 6, a wafer carrier 300 having a microsensor 305, travels between a first manufacturing tool 315A and a second manufacturing tool 315B on an optional track 310. Hereafter, the term microsensor will incorporate standalone microsensors and microsensors coupled to one or more expansion cards. Microsensor 300 is similar to microsensors 140, 140A or 140B (see FIG. 5 and FIGS. 2A, 2C and 4C respectively) and expansion cards 145, 145A and 145B (see FIGS. 1A, 4A and 4C respectively) described supra. Wafer carrier 300 is similar to wafer carrier 100 (see FIGS. 1A and 1B) described supra. Track 310 is optional because wafer carrier 300 may be carried by a human operator or moved by a human operator on a cart. With very large wafers, such as 300 mm diameter wafers, mechanically unassisted transport of wafer carrier 300 becomes difficult due size and weight. Manufacturing tools 315A and 315B may be process tools (for fabrication of integrated circuits on wafers), wafer inspection tools, wafer measurements tool or production control tools such as wafer load/unload tools, wafer or wafer carrier storage buffers or wafer sorting tools.

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Manufacturing tools 315A and 315B are linked to a production control system 320, which monitors the identity (ID) of wafer carrier 300 (and hence the lot of wafers contained in the wafer carrier) and tracks the wafer carriers location and time at location. In one example location is tracked by bar codes on the wafer carrier and bar code readers in manufacturing tools 315A and 315B. Production control system 320 also receives process parametric data from manufacturing tools 315A and 315B. If manufacturing tools are inspection or measurement tools (or generate wafer based inspection or measurement data) then the manufacturing tools may also be linked to a statistical process control (SPC) system 325. SPC system 325 analyzes wafer-based parametrics in order to determine if the wafer lot under manufacture is meeting specification. The results of this analysis may be fed back to production control system 320.

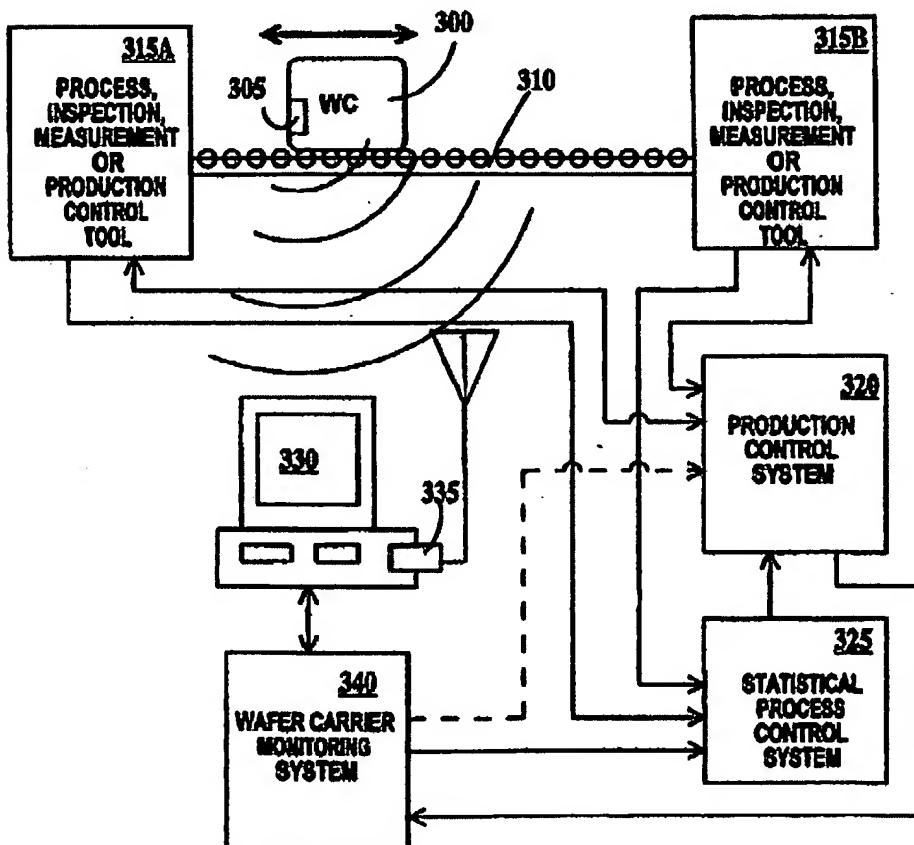


FIG. 6

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Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Perry et al., Lovrenich, Nakamura et al., Barnett, Belotserkovskiy et al., Mathis et al., and Godfrey et al. disclose related art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jayprakash N. Gandhi whose telephone number is 571-272-3740. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 - 4:30 (Mon. - Fri.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo P. Picard can be reached on 571-272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JN Gandhi
Jayprakash N Gandhi
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2125

jng